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General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 29 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement of 25 December 2000 by the official representative of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs in connection with the completion of the reduction of Russian conventional weapons and military equipment deployed in the territory of Georgia, in accordance with the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex were distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 73.

(*Signed*) S. **Lavrov**

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Annex to the letter dated 29 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the official representative of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Russian Federation, in accordance with the agreements set forth in the Russian-Georgian statement (Istanbul, 17 November 1999) and its obligations under the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, has completed within the deadline set — by 31 December 2000 — the reduction of Russian conventional weapons and military equipment deployed in the territory of Georgia. As a result of the measures carried out, their quantity does not exceed the levels established under the adapted Conventional Armed Forces Treaty for temporary deployment on the bases.

The weapons reduction process is being carried out in accordance with the timetables agreed upon with the Georgian side.

Under the Treaty rules, a number of inspections were carried out with the participation of foreign observers, including inspections at the Russian monitoring site in Gudauta (Abkhazia, Georgia). International inspectors were given access to the equipment situated in the territory of the State under inspection, but not controlled by its central authorities owing to the continuing Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. In the complicated conditions of the unresolved conflict, the agreed quantity of military equipment has been withdrawn from the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia.

In accordance with the mutual agreement on the part of Moscow and Tbilisi, the Russian-Georgian talks on carrying out the other obligations set forth in the aforementioned statement of 17 November 1999 will be continued. The Russian side confirms its position that all its provisions are interrelated and subject to implementation in all aspects.

Moscow hopes that all the other parties to the Treaty and the Istanbul agreements will also strictly observe the obligations that they have undertaken.

25 December 2000